

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace the claims as filed with the claims set forth below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) The Aanode for electroplating, which comprises an anode base and a shield, wherein the anode base comprises a support material and an active layer, and wherein the shield is attached to the anode base at a distance from it and reduces material transport to and from the anode base.
2. (Currently Amended) The Aanode according to claim 1, in which the support material is self-passivating under electrolysis conditions.
3. (Currently Amended) The Aanode according to claim 1-~~or~~ 2, in which the active layer is electron-conducting.
4. (Currently Amended) The Aanode according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, in which the shield ~~consists of~~ comprises a plastic material.
5. (Currently Amended) The Aanode according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, in which the shield ~~consists of~~ comprises a metal material.
6. (Currently Amended) The Aanode according to claim 5, in which the shield ~~consists~~ comprises at least one of a metal grid, an expanded metal ~~or~~ and a perforated plate.
7. (Currently Amended) The Aanode according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, in which the shield ~~consists of~~ comprises a plastic material and a metal material.
8. (Currently Amended) The Aanode according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~, in which the shield is connected to the anode base in an electric current-conducting manner.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The Anode according to any one of claims 1 to 8, in which the shield is at a distance of 0.01 to 100 mm, preferably 0.05 to 50 mm, particularly preferably 0.1 to 20 mm and quite particularly preferably 0.5 to 10 mm, from the anode base.~~

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The Anode according to any one of claims 1 to 9, in which the form of the shield, and the arrangement and the distance of the shield from the anode base are such that the gas bubbles forming at the anode during electroplating are brought together.~~

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The Anode according to any one of claims 1 to 10, in which the anode is connected as a cathode.~~

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A method of electroplating comprising:~~  
~~process, in which an anode according to any one of claims 1 to 11 is used;~~  
providing an anode base comprising a support material and an active layer;  
providing a shield attached to the anode base at a distance from the anode base;  
applying electrical current to the anode base; and  
reducing material transport to and from the anode base with the shield.

13.-19. (Cancelled)

20. (New) The method of electroplating of claim 12 further comprising providing a support material that is self-passivating under electrolysis conditions.

21. (New) The method of electroplating of claim 12 further comprising providing an active layer that is electron conducting.

22. (New) The method of electroplating of claim 12 further comprising providing a shield comprising a plastic material.

23. (New) The method of electroplating of claim 12 further comprising providing a shield comprising a metal material.

24. (New) The method of electroplating of claim 12 further comprising providing a shield comprising at least one of a metal grid, an expanded metal and a perforated plate.

25. (New) The method of electroplating of claim 12 further comprising providing a shield comprising a plastic material and a metal material.

26. (New) The method of electroplating of claim 12 further comprising connecting the shield to the anode base in an electric current-conducting manner.

27. (New) The method of electroplating of claim 12 further comprising attaching the shield to the anode base at a distance of 0.01 to 100 mm.

28. (New) The method of electroplating of claim 12 further comprising forming the shield and selecting the distance of the shield from the anode base such that gas bubbles forming at the anode during electroplating are brought together.

29. (New) The method of electroplating of claim 12 further comprising applying cathodic current to the anode base.